

REMARKS

All claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 11-23 stand rejected in the October 9, 2007 Office Action. Applicant's attorney contacted the Examiner to discuss the independent claim rejections. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for agreeing to conduct a phone interview with his attorney on December 6, 2007. During the interview, the rejection of independent claims 1, 14 and 23 was discussed.

With regard to claims 1 and 14, the Examiner explained that the claim terms "rests on" (claim 1) and "resting on" (claim 14) have been construed to include both directly and indirectly resting on. In response, Applicant's attorney proposed the amendments made herein to claims 1 and 14. These amendments specify that the claimed connecting element directly contacts the side faces of the two claimed adjacent substrates. The Examiner agreed that the Fromme reference (EP 1 083 599) should no longer anticipate independent claims 1 and 14 in view of these amendments.

With regard to independent claim 23, the Examiner noted that claim 23 refers to both substrates and substrate regions and that the Office does not consider them to be the same thing, thus warranting the 102(b) rejection in view of the Fromme reference. In response, Applicant's attorney proposed the amendments made herein to claim 23. The Examiner agreed that the Fromme reference should no longer anticipate claim 23 in view of the these amendments because Fromme does not disclose one or a plurality of connecting regions in direct contact with adjacent ones of the substrates and arranged directly on the flat surface of a heat sink between adjacent ones of the substrates. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13-17, and 19-23 are patentable over the Fromme reference.

Claims 4, 5, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fromme as applied to Claims 1, 2, and 14 above, and further in view of Japanese

Publication JP 2001 118987 filed by Naruse Mikio ("Mikio"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicant does not concede, do not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 4, 5, 11, and 18 are allowable at least to the extent of the independent claims to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 4, 5, 11, and 18. Applicant reserves the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims. If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney, Mark R. Bilak at 919.854.1844.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 19, 2007